

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



ADULT & SENIOR CARE UPDATE

June 2007

COMMUNITY CARE LICENSING DIVISION ADULT AND SENIOR CARE RESIDENTIAL UPDATE

This is our second issue of the Adult and Senior Care Update for 2007. It also marks our 15th year of keeping the residential care community informed about licensing programs and services. The updates continue to be an important method for sharing information. We appreciate your support in sharing these updates with members of your organization and others interested in adult and senior care issues.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW DIRECTOR

We are pleased to report that John A. Wagner is the new Director of the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). The Governor announced his appointment on April 24, 2007. Mr. Wagner has extensive experience in senior policymaking and leadership roles in the field of human services. Most recently, he served as Assistant Secretary for Children, Youth and Families for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services. As Commissioner for the Massachusetts' Department of Transitional Assistance, he led one of that state's largest agencies and oversaw the administration of cash assistance, shelter, and food programs serving low-income residents. Mr. Wagner's wealth of experience in the human services arena speaks to his enduring commitment to support strong, well-functioning families; to promote the safety, permanency and well-being of children; and to support the ability of vulnerable populations to live in the community.

We also wish to thank Cliff Allenby for his service as Interim Director of CDSS during the past 18 months. Mr. Allenby has had a long and distinguished career in public service, having previously served in numerous capacities including Director of the Department of Developmental Services, Interim Director of the Department of General Services, chief legislative representative for Los Angeles County, and Secretary of the then Health and Welfare Agency. We wish him well in his future endeavors.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES TO REORGANIZE JULY 1, 2007

Many of you may already know that the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) is poised to reorganize and split into two departments. Last year, Senate Bill 162 established the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and transferred certain responsibilities from CDHS to the new CDPH, effective July 1, 2007. At the same time, CDHS is renamed the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS).

Dr. Mark Horton, California's current Public Health Officer, has been named the new CDPH Director, while Sandra Shewry, the current CDHS Director, will continue on as the DHCS Director. The reorganization is designed to provide more focused leadership in public health and health care financing at the state level, and to streamline related management functions. CDPH will focus on emergency preparedness and core public health issues such as family health and emerging infectious diseases. The licensing and certification of skilled nursing facilities and other health care facilities and agencies also falls under CDPH's umbrella. DHCS will focus on such areas as managed care and the Medi-Cal program, and includes the Office of Long-Term Care. The new CDPH website, www.cdph.ca.gov, will have links back to the "old" website, www.dhs.ca.gov, until January 2, 2008.

HEAT-RELATED TIPS AND NEW OES HEAT-PREPAREDNESS WEBSITE

With summer upon us again, we are reminded of the heat wave in July 2006 that brought home the importance of being prepared for extremely hot weather. We know that summer heat waves can be dangerous. Exposure to severe heat can lead to dehydration, heat exhaustion, heat stroke, and even death. Most at risk are the very young, the elderly, and those with chronic health conditions. With this in mind, we are attaching a copy of Tips for Licensees to Prevent Heat-Related Illnesses, the handout we released last year in response to the July heat wave. This handout has been updated and is also available on our website at <http://www.cclid.ca.gov/res/pdf/heat.pdf>.

This year's tip sheet has been modified only slightly, to more prominently reference the web-site for the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES). OES has launched a heat-preparedness website that provides tips and information on how to beat the heat and stay safe this summer. It includes preparedness tips for people and their pets, as well as links on energy conservation, phone numbers for local emergency management offices, and links to utilities statewide. In the event of a heat emergency, the OES website will also provide directions to statewide cooling centers, as well as additional news and information to keep the public safe. The site can be accessed at: <http://www.oes.ca.gov/Operational/OESHome.nsf/ALL/AA07C0C051F70991882572F3005C15CF?OpenDocument>.

DO NOT LEAVE ANYONE UNATTENDED IN A CAR

Remember, the temperature inside a car is hotter than the temperature outside and can climb rapidly. For example, when it's 93 degrees Fahrenheit outside, the inside of a car can reach 125 degrees Fahrenheit in 20 minutes or less. Please be safe and do not leave vulnerable or dependent adults or seniors unattended in a vehicle this summer.

WEST NILE VIRUS LONG-TERM CARE RECOMMENDATIONS AND BROCHURES

As in years past, we feel it is important during the summer months and into the fall to highlight information and resources related to the West Nile virus (WNV). WNV is a disease that is most often spread through the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. While most infected people either have no symptoms or have flu-like symptoms, the elderly and those with compromised immune symptoms are at greatest risk for serious illness.

To assist licensees in dealing with the WNV threat, the CDPH Division of Communicable Disease Control has updated its WNV guidelines for long-term care facilities. These guidelines provide in-depth information about WNV in an easy-to-read, question-and-answer format. The last page contains a helpful checklist that facilities can use to assess their environment for potential mosquito-breeding places. The guidelines can be accessed on the CCLD website at: http://www.cclcd.ca.gov/OtherHealth_2494.htm. Questions about WNV infection and control measures should be directed to Jon Rosenberg, M.D., at jon.rosenberg@cdph.ca.gov.

In addition, WNV brochures and other educational resources and links can be found at <http://www.westnile.ca.gov/resources.php>. The brochure on WNV prevention for people over the age of 50—available in both English and Spanish—may be of particular interest. Any questions on the content or availability of these resources should be directed to Claudia Erickson at claudia.erickson@cdph.ca.gov or (916) 552-9762.

Please keep in mind these general WNV prevention tips:

- Drain standing water. Mosquitoes can hatch in as little as a half-inch of water.
- Keep mosquitoes outside by installing or repairing both window and door screens.
- Use an effective mosquito repellent containing ingredients such as DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus.
- Wear long pants and sleeves outdoors when practical.
- Try to avoid being outside at dawn and dusk, when mosquitoes are most active.
- If you find a dead bird, please report it to the California West Nile Virus and Dead Bird Hotline at 1-877-WNV-BIRD, or online at www.westnile.ca.gov.

For continuously updated information on WNV, please see the California West Nile Virus Website at <http://www.westnile.ca.gov/> and the federal Centers for Disease Control website at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm>.

“REALLY READY: DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FOR LONG TERM CARE”

The California Association of Health Facilities (CAHF), a non-profit professional association founded in 1950 to serve as a statewide organization for long-term care providers, is hosting its first-ever disaster-preparedness conference: “Really Ready: Disaster Preparedness for Long Term Care”. The conference will be held at the Embassy Suites Anaheim South and will begin September 5, 2007 and end on the following day. The conference offers participants an opportunity to build a more resilient disaster response system through a variety of educational sessions that include highly useful tools and resources. Staff from licensed facilities are invited to attend this conference to learn more about such topics as: Risk and Impact of Disasters in California, Vulnerable Populations in Disasters, Mental Health and Disaster Preparedness, Disaster Planning in Your Facility, CCL Disaster Regulations, Pandemic Influenza, Planning with Your Essential Services Providers, Reimbursement Strategies, Evacuation Planning, and more! For additional information, or to register, visit the CAHF website at: <http://www.cahf.org/public/dpp/conference.php>.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION ISSUES GUIDANCE ON HOSPITAL BED DESIGN TO REDUCE PATIENT ENTRAPMENT

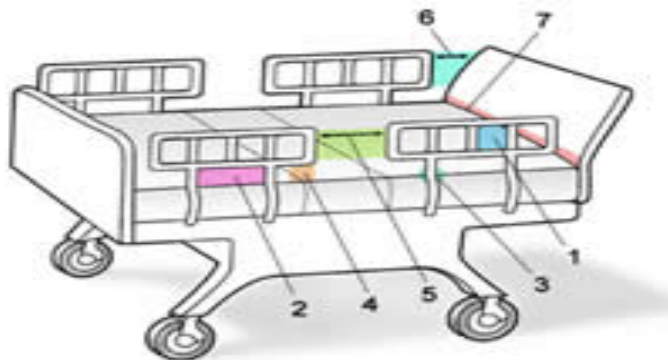
On March 9, 2006, the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) published final guidance designed to reduce the occurrence of hospital bed entrapments. Entrapment can occur when part of a patient's body becomes caught between parts of the bed, such as in the space between the mattress and the side rail. This can cause strangulation and death. The final guidance, "Guidance for Industry and FDA Staff; Hospital Bed System Dimensional and Assessment Guidance to Reduce Entrapment," is available on the FDA's website at: <http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/beds/>.

Key body parts at risk of entrapment are:

- Head
- Neck
- Chest

Potential zones of entrapment in a hospital bed system are:

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Zone 1 | Within the rail. |
| Zone 2 | Under the rail, between the rail supports or next to a single rail support. |
| Zone 3 | Between the rail and the mattress. |
| Zone 4 | Between the rail, at the ends of the rail. |
| Zone 5 | Between split bed rails. |
| Zone 6 | Between the end of the rail and the side edge of the head or foot board. |
| Zone 7 | Between the head or foot board and the mattress end. |



INFORMATION RELEASE ON BEDRIDDEN RESIDENTS

On June 13, 2007, CCLD issued CCL Information Release No. 2007-04 relating to bedridden residents and RCFEs. This release, together with its accompanying attachments, clarifies the requirements for accepting and retaining bedridden residents in RCFEs. It also clarifies the procedure for extending a resident's temporary bedridden status beyond the 14 days specified in statute and regulations. This release can be accessed at: <http://www.cclld.ca.gov/res/pdf/200704.pdf>.

RESPIRE CARE IN RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES FOR THE ELDERLY

A RCFE may fill its unused capacity on a short-term, time-limited basis to provide temporary respite care for frail elderly persons, functionally impaired adults, or mentally disordered persons who need 24-hour supervision and who are being cared for by a caretaker or caretakers. Prior to accepting a resident for respite, an RCFE must interview the prospective resident or representative to determine that his/her needs are compatible with the other residents in care, complete a pre-admission appraisal, obtain and evaluate a recent medical assessment, and complete and sign an admission agreement (Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Sections 87583, 87569, and 87568). A licensee may fill its unused capacity to provide respite care under existing law in Health and Safety Code Section 1569.5. A licensee must carry a sufficient amount of liability coverage and charge a reasonable fee for the services provided, which shall include, but not be limited to, supervision, room, leisure activities, and meals until regulations are developed for respite care. For more information, contact your local licensing office.

SUMMARY

If you have questions about items included in this Update or suggestions for future topics, please contact Barbara Rooney, Chief of the Technical Assistance and Policy Branch at (916) 657-2346. Also, please visit our website at www.cclld.ca.gov to obtain copies of Updates, office locations, provider letters, regulations, or to learn more about licensing services.

Sincerely,

(Original signed by Jeff Hiratsuka for Jo Frederick)

JO FREDERICK

Deputy Director

Community Care Licensing Division

Enclosure